

Competition in Road Transport Industry

4523. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent report appearing in the Press has pointed out that the road transport industry is experiencing a slump due to tough competition from the railways and introduction of pipelines for movement of oil and gas;

(b) whether there is also a surplus of trucks as out of 28 lakh trucks on the road, 10 lakhs are old enough to be made redundant but continue to operate; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to ensure that the road transport industry operates viably?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) Road Transport Industry is in the private sector. Like all other transport modes, goods transport is also subject to cyclical fluctuations. Trucks are being operated in the private sector. The question of their being fit or over aged has to be judged and enforced by the State Government and not by the Central Government.

New Highways in Karnataka

4524. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the new Highways taken up in Karnataka;

(b) the length of National Highways in the State; and

(c) the expenditure incurred during the last three years on the maintenance of Highways in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) During the 9th Five Year Plan, seven number of National Highways aggregating a length of 1574 Km. have been added to National Highway grid in Karnataka State.

(b) About 3570 Km.

(c) The expenditure incurred on the maintenance of National Highways in Karnataka during last 3 years is given below:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1998-99	30.80
1999-2000	39.30
2000-2001	30.86

Borrowings By NHAI

4525. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to take Government borrowings route for the second phase of its US \$ 260 million ADB loan;

(b) whether this is in contrast to the previous US \$ 180 million loan for the 1st tranche; and

(c) if so, the reason therefor and the advantage of this route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) This loan will be a loan intermediated by Government unlike the US \$ 180 million loan which was a direct loan to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Keeping in view the debt servicing capacity of NHAI, it has been decided that the new loan should be an intermediated loan.

Impact of National Highways Development Project on Delhi

4526. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Delhi has written a letter to the Prime Minister about the impact that the proposed National Highways Development Project (NHDP) may have on the Capital by